

Sacramento County Farm Bureau
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October 24, 2007

Phil Isenberg, Chair
Delta Vision Blue Ribbon Task Force
650 Capitol Mall
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Isenberg:

Sacramento County Farm Bureau supports executive order S-17-06, which directs the Blue Ribbon Task Force to develop a vision for sustainable management of a durable Delta by January 2008 and supports that part of Governor Schwarzenegger's water plan which creates new surface water storage.

Sea level rise, climate change, subsidence, and potential seismic activity will negatively impact services provided by the Delta. Sacramento County Farm Bureau will only support a "Delta Fix" which includes the following elements:

1. Adequate levee maintenance and upgrades.
2. Water for exports moved through the Delta.
3. Exportation of surplus water only.
4. Reduced dependency on the Delta for water exports.

All Delta services, including flood management, transportation, utilities, ecosystem health, water supply, and land use, are dependent on a well-maintained levee system. Because these services are essential to the entire state of California and because any vision for the Delta will take many years for implementation, any plan for the Delta must provide for immediate and adequate levee maintenance and upgrades, especially in the Western Delta, where the greatest risk from seismic activity has been identified.

Water exports (State Water Project and Central Valley Project) must be rerouted in order to minimize negative environmental impacts. Any modified route for export water must pass through the Delta. Through Delta conveyance provides flexible management to protect water quality in the Delta Pool for all Delta water users. Sacramento County Farm Bureau emphatically opposes an isolated facility (peripheral canal). Any conveyance facility which removes fresh water from the Delta will result in degraded water quality for Delta water users and catastrophic and irreversible environmental damage.

When the State Water and the Central Valley Projects were built, Federal and State Governments clearly stated that only surplus water would be exported. Because water storage projects upstream from the pumps were not built as planned, there is insufficient water in the Delta to support export targets and until significant new surface storage is created any Delta Vision will be severely compromised. Pumping export water from the Delta must be done on an "opportunistic" basis (only occur when there is a surplus), and cannot negatively impact either the supply or quality of area-of-origin users.

Users of export water should strive for regional self-sufficiency by using tools such as ground water storage, surface storage, conservation, reuse, and desalinization. By reducing dependence on Delta exports, the water supply for millions of Californians will be more secure in the future.

Sacramento County Farm Bureau understands that the Delta is a very complex system and that there are major gaps in scientific knowledge to support long-term changes. Therefore, within the framework outlined above, we can only support actions which are adaptive (easily modified to conform to knowledge as it develops) and are reversible in the event they do not work as intended. Actions should be incremental and subject to continuous scientific evaluation,

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Ken Oneto, President
Sacramento County Farm Bureau

cc Blue Ribbon Task Force
Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger
Honorable Barbara Boxer
Honorable Dianne Feinstein
Honorable Dan Lungren
Honorable Guy Houston
Honorable Mike Machado
Honorable Charles Poochigian
Honorable Lois Wolk
Honorable Dave Cox
Honorable Alan Nakanishi
Honorable Deborah Ortiz
Sacramento County Board of Supervisors
Contra Costa County Farm Bureau
Solano County Farm Bureau
Yolo County Farm Bureau
San Joaquin County Farm Bureau
California Farm Bureau Federation